

Appl. No. 10/605,996
Amtd. Dated Jan. 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 26, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A storage cassette for accommodating substrates, comprising:

a box-shaped case with a space for retaining substrates and defining an entrance for inserting the substrates into the space; and

a stopping mechanism comprising a first locating mechanism, a second locating mechanism, and a stopper engaged therebetween, wherein the first and second locating mechanisms are respectively located at opposite sides of the entrance of the case, and each locating mechanism defines a first locating means, a second locating means closer to a corresponding side of the opposite sides of the entrance of the case than the first locating means, and a connecting means interconnecting the first locating means and the second locating means;

wherein in a first position, the ~~stoppers~~ stopper [[are]] is engaged in the first locating means whereby substrates accommodated in the cassette cannot be displaced; and in a second position, the ~~stoppers~~ stopper [[are]] is engaged in the second locating means whereby the substrates can be freely removed from the space.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The storage cassette as described in claim 1, wherein each locating mechanism defines a first locating hole, a second locating hole located closer to the corresponding side of the opposite sides of the entrance of the case than the first locating hole, and a connecting slot

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interconnecting the first and second locating holes.

Claim 3 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 2, wherein a diameter of the first locating hole is the same as that of the second locating hole, and greater than width of the connecting slot.

Claim 4 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 2, wherein each locating mechanism further defines a guiding slot, at least a part of the guiding slot being parallel to the connecting slot.

Claim 5 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 4, wherein the first locating mechanism further comprises a sliding ring, a spring and a clip, and the second locating mechanism further comprises a sliding ring.

Claim 6 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 5, wherein the stopper comprises an upper end, a lower end and an intermediate main body, and diameters of the upper and lower ends are identical and less than a diameter of the main body.

Claim 7 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 6, wherein the stopper defines a first coupling ring between the upper end and the main body, and a second coupling ring a predetermined distance below the main body.

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Claim 8 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 7, wherein a common diameter of the first and second coupling rings is less than that of the main body and greater than that of the upper end.

Claim 9 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 8, wherein the diameter of the first and second coupling rings is slightly less than that of the first and second locating holes.

Claim 10 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 9, wherein the upper end defines an annular groove near a top thereof, and a diameter of the upper end at the annular groove is substantially the same as an inner diameter of the clip.

Claim 11 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 10, wherein the sliding ring defines a central through hole and an outer annular groove, and a diameter of the sliding ring at the annular groove is slightly less than a width of the guiding slot.

Claim 12 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 11, wherein the sliding rings are received in the guiding slots at the annular grooves thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 12, wherein the upper and lower ends are received through the through holes of the sliding rings respectively.

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Claim 14 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 13, wherein the upper and lower ends are received in the sliding rings so that the upper and lower ends can slide along the guiding slots.

Claim 15 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 14, wherein the first and second coupling rings are engaged in the first locating holes.

Claim 16 (original): The storage cassette as described in claim 15, wherein the spring is located around the upper end on the sliding ring thereof, and the clip is engaged in the annular groove of the upper end thereby compressing the spring.

Claims 17-21 (canceled):